Amendments to the Specification:

At page 1, replace the first paragraph (lines 7-10) with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a ~~continuation-in-part of co-pending application, Szostak et al., U.S.S.N. 09/007,005, filed January 14, 1998, which claims benefit from provisional applications. Szostak et al., U.S.S.N. 60/064,491, filed November 6, 1997, now abandoned, and U.S.S.N. 60/035,963, filed January 21, 1997, now abandoned~~ continuation of, and claims priority from, co-pending United States continuation patent application, 09/876,235, filed June 6, 2001, which is a continuation of and claims priority from United States continuation-in-part patent application 09/247,190, filed February 9, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,261,804 B1, which claims priority from United States patent application 09/007,005, filed January 14, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,258,558 B1, which claims the benefit of the filing dates of United States provisional applications 60/064,491, filed November 6, 1997, now abandoned, and 60/035,963, filed January 21, 1997, now abandoned.

At page 18, replace the second paragraph (lines 16-23) with the following amended paragraph:

FIGURE 17 is a photograph illustrating the translation of myc RNA templates. The following linkers were used: lanes 1-4, $dA_{27}dCdCP$ (SEQ ID NO: 8); lanes 5-8, $dA_{27}rCrCP$ (SEQ ID NO: 8); and lanes 9-12, $dA_{21}C_9C_9C_9dAdCdCP$. In each lane, the concentration of RNA template was 600 nM, and ^{35}S-Met was

used for labeling. Reaction conditions were as follows: lanes 1, 5, and 9, 30°C for 1 hour; lanes 2, 6, and 10, 30°C for 2 hours; lane 3, 7, and 11, 30°C for 1 hour, -20°C for 16 hours; and lanes 4, 8, and 12, 30°C for 1 hour, -20°C for 16 hours with 50 mM Mg^{2+}. In this Figure, "A" represents free peptide, and "B" represent mRNA-peptide fusion.

At page 19, replace the first full paragraph (lines 3-7) with the following amended paragraph:

FIGURE 19 is a photograph illustrating the translation of myc RNA template using lysate obtained from Ambion (lane 1), Novagen (lane 2), and Amersham (lane 3). The linker utilized was $dA_{27}dCdCP$ (SEQ ID NO: 8). The concentration of the template was 600 nM, and ^{35}S-Met was used for labeling. Translations were performed at 30°C for 1 hour, and incubations were carried out at -20°C overnight in the presence of 50 mM Mg^{2+}.

At page 58, replace the third partial paragraph (lines 19-28) with the following amended partial paragraph:

Using the above conditions, mRNA-puromycin conjugates were synthesized as follows. Ligation of the myc RNA sequence (RNA124) to the puromycin-containing oligonucleotide was performed using either a standard DNA splint (e.g., 5'-TTTTTTTTTTAGCGCAAGA) (SEQ ID NO: ~~32~~ 28) or a splint containing a random base (N) at the ligation junction (e.g., 5'-TTTTTTTTTTNAGCGCAAGA) (SEQ ID NO: 33). The reactions consisted of mRNA, the DNA splint, and the puromycin oligonucleotide in a molar ratio of 1.0 : 1.5-2.0 : 1.0. An alternative molar ratio of 1.0 : 1.2 : 1.4 may also be utilized. A mixture of these components was first heated at 94°C for 1 minute and then cooled on ice for 15 minutes. Ligation reactions were performed for one hour at room temperature in 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 10 mM DTT, 1 mM

Insert the enclosed Sequence Listing consisting of 9 pages at the end of the present application.